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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/762,610	01/22/2004	Martha Kelsey	P06433US00	5043

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DES MOINES, IA 50309-2721

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, KIEN T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3711

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10/762,610	KELSEY, MARTHA	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Kien T. Nguyen	3711	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fogarty et al U.S. Patent 5,186,673 in view of Norman et al U.S. Patent 6,227,930.

Fogarty et al disclosed a simulated clothing for a doll comprising a first piece (12) applied to a portion of a doll and secured by a pair of mating two part hook and loops strips (25, 27) (Velcro) of overlapping portions of the piece as shown in Figs. 1 and 2; the piece is formed into a shape that can be used to simulate an article of clothing or part thereof on a doll (18), the piece is sized originally to a size and shape to form a simulated piece of clothing or part thereof; there are more than one piece to simulate various types of clothing articles such size, shape, color, size and they may be applied onto each other as shown in Fig. 8. It is noted that Fogarty et al failed to teach the use of pieces of clothing made of material having self-adherent and elastomeric properties as set forth in these claims. However, Norman et al disclosed doll's garments made from an elastomeric material. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the pieces of Fogarty et al with the elastomeric material as taught by Norman et al for the purpose of providing a high degree of realism for the garments of the doll.

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Regarding the use of self-adhesion of the overlapping portions, Fogarty et al utilized Velcro as discussed above. It is very well known in the art that fastening means such as Velcro, adhesive, sewing, etc could be interchangeably used (see Cox U.S. Patent 4,197,670, col. 2, lines 13-16). Accordingly, it would have obvious to substitute the use of Velcro with any equivalent fastening means to perform the same function.

Regarding method claims 18-31, the above combination of Fogarty et al and Norman et al would constitute the steps of the method of simulating clothing on a doll as set forth therein.

Response to Arguments

In response to the new limitations “conformable, lightweight, cohesive self-adherent wrappable material having a width, length, and relatively thin, uniform thickness”, such characteristics of the elastomeric material are inherent from the elastomeric material of the doll’s garments of Norman et al; and “in almost any way or configuration, repeatedly removed and reapplied in the same or different configuration, or applied to different dolls or mannequins and secured by self-adhesion of overlapping portions of substantially any side or portion of the first piece”, a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim.

In response to the declaration under Rule 132, applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking


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references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kien T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4428. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eugene Kim can be reached on (571) 272-4463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Kien T. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3711

Ktn